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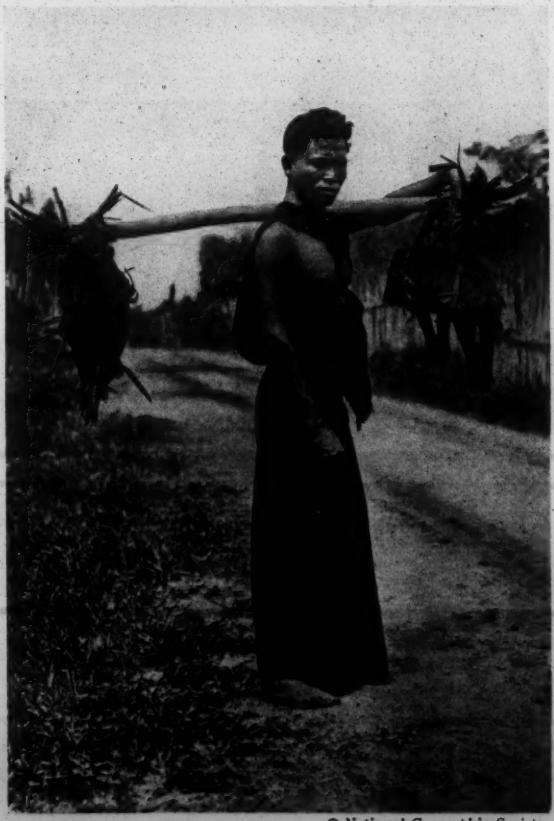

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TWO LITTLE PIGS GO TO MARKET IN SUMATRA

(See Bulletin No. 4).

HOW TO OBTAIN THE BULLETIN

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Bechuanaland, South Africa's "Sahara"

BECHUANALAND, Africa, is put forward as a possible site of the original Eden by the recent discovery of an ape-man skull fifty feet down in limestone.

Whatever Bechuanaland may have been in prehistoric times, it can scarcely be considered an Eden to-day. This region, circled by the Union of South Africa, the Rhodesias, and Southwest Africa, is a Sahara in its lack of settlements and railways. The Cape-to-Cairo line crosses its southern frontier at Mafeking, and elbows its way along its eastern boundary until its emerges again at Plumtree.

Desert Dwellers Develop "Sixth Sense"

The latter name sounds like a town of our own West in Bret Harte days, and appropriately so. For west of Plumtree stretch the "bad lands" of Bechuanaland—a vast waste of salt marshes with the Great Makalakari Salt Lake in the foreground, and farther inland the Lake Ngami country. Here, in the Kalahari desert, live a people who have been called the most backward in Africa. And this desert, it has been said, is their fortress "whose walls are the want of water."

Through numberless centuries the Bakalahari have developed a sort of sixth sense for finding water. They draw it through reeds from near-surface streams by suction and use gourds and ostrich-egg shells to collect the precious fluid.

To the south of Bechuanaland's Great Salt Lake, not far from the great trunk line railway's dusty Bechuanaland sector, nor from the crossing of Capricorn and the Limpopo, is Serowe, native metropolis of the Bamangwato branch of the country's Bantu peoples.

A Famous Bechuanaland Native

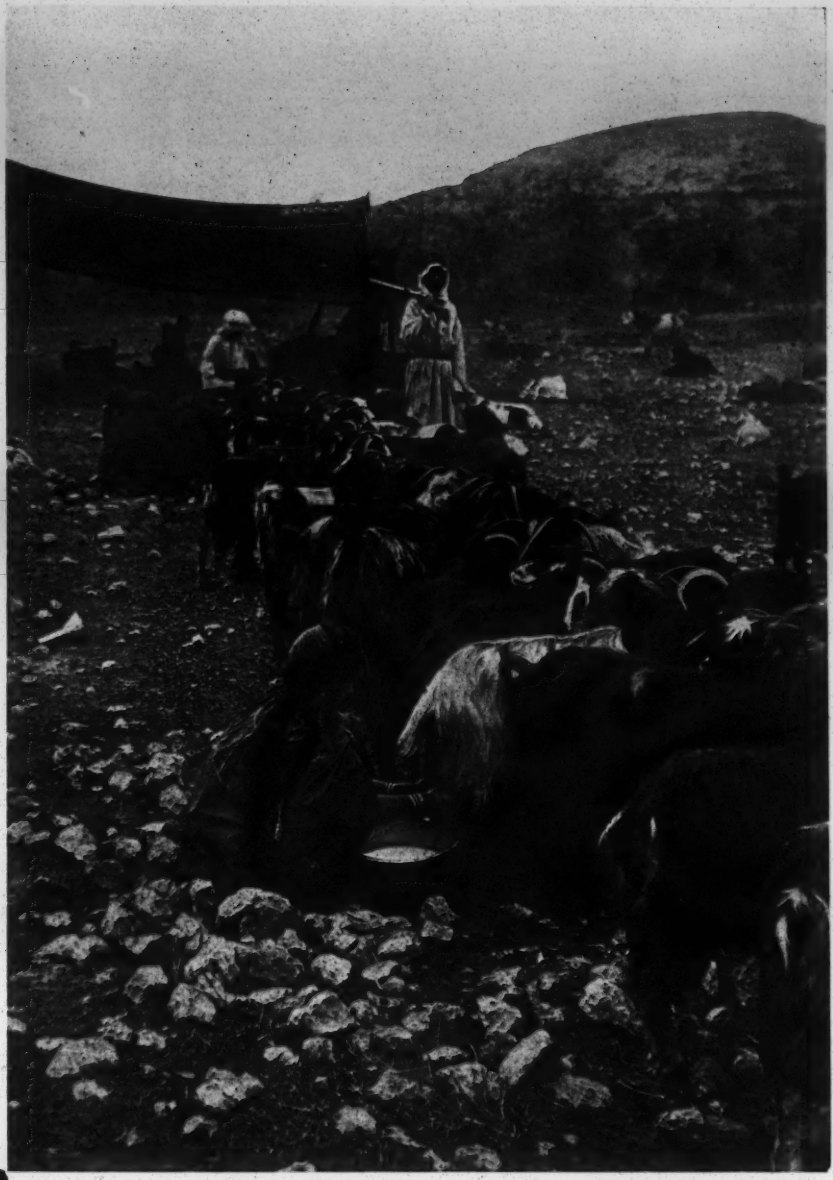
Among this tribe was born, about 1830, a bright black boy who, at the age of twelve, met David Livingstone. How one contact with civilization affected this black son of a backward tribe is a rare adventure in human nature. Khama is the one native of Africa whose biography is worth recording, one writer asserts.

Khama ruled as an autocrat in peace because he had been mighty in war. He obtained aid from the British Government against incursions of the Boers and he beat back his neighbor Matabele tribesmen so effectually that his people thereafter were immune from their periodic raids.

Khama's conversion was no emotional or mystical camp-meeting affair. He seized upon a few practical virtues and enforced them so literally that visitors to his clean, prosperous capital usually are amazed. He first set about making his people sober and honest. Even missionaries are said to have remonstrated with him about his sudden banning of native beer; but the grim old autocrat said that some beer might be all right for white folks but no beer was the only salvation of his tribe.

Larger Than Texas

Many stories are told of his rigid honesty. On one occasion he sold, for a good price, a horse which died a few days after delivery to the purchaser.



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MILKING A HERD OF GOATS IN THE ARABIAN DESERT

In such country as this the Wahabis cultivated their strength until they were able to gather forces sufficient to capture Mecca and most of the Kingdom of Hedjaz. Their occupation of the sacred city of the Moslem world repeats the attack made by their ancestors in the early part of the 19th century. At that time they held Mecca for ten years before being driven back into the desert (see Bulletin No. 5).

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Paraffine: A Mineral Product of Many Uses

A HOSTESS who serves preserves or jellies, and graces her table with candles, would be surprised to learn that she owes these adjuncts, and perhaps the matches which light the candles, to "a wax that smells."

Such, however, is a translation of the Greek words which make the name of the mineral ozocerite. And ozocerite is one source of the paraffine of commerce—a commodity extensively used in the preserving of fruits, and in making candles, some kinds of matches, waterproof paper, floor polish, shoe polish and dolls.

Known As "Mountain Fats"

Ozocerite is as curious a mineral as asbestos. The former is valuable chiefly because it won't mix; the latter because it won't burn. Contrary to its name, ozocerite, in its purified state is odorless. Both metals belie their origin from mines. Asbestos spins like wool or cotton; ozocerite resembles beeswax, indeed it has been termed a "mineral wax" and was first known as "mountain fats."

Until the World War period there was just one source of ozocerite. That was in the mines near Boryslaw, a town of some 10,000 people, in Eastern Galicia.

In 1914 nearly eight million pounds were imported into the United States. When this supply was sharply curtailed deposits in Utah were developed, but the Galician fields still hold their world supremacy in the commercial output.

When this curious mineral comes out of the earth, it varies from a jelly-like consistency to the hardness of gypsum. When it is refined it is known chemically as ceresin, or ozocerite paraffin, and when it gets into commerce in white, flat, odorless discs it takes on a final "e" and is the paraffine of many household and manufacturing uses.

Other Sources of Paraffine

Ozocerite is not the only source of paraffine. The commercial product comes from the paraffin, similar to ozocerite paraffin, obtained from distilling wood and coal. It also is a by-product of petroleum.

The paraffin obtained from petroleum might well be termed an artificial ozocerite because, in that event, man simply reproduces at high speed a process similar to that by which Nature makes the mineral. Chemically the natural ozocerite is believed to be formed when petroleum evaporates and leaves in crevices and fissures a mixture of solid hydrocarbons.

Death To Mosquitoes

Not all petroleum contains paraffin. That which does yields paraffin oil which has helped make the Tropics habitable for man. The oil forms a solid, impervious coating over stagnant ponds, just as the refined product does over preserved foods, and thus prevents the breeding of mosquitoes, carriers of yellow fever and malaria. It shares with vaseline, another petroleum derivative, the rather dubious honor of being the basis of many "hair restorers."

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Khama returned the purchase price, saying that his inquiries showed that the horse had contracted the fatal illness while still in his possession.

A visitor to his domain wrote, "Khama regulates the price of the goat you buy; and the milk vendor dare not ask more than the regulation price, nor can you get it for less. He has put a stop to the existence of witch doctors. He pervades everything in his town. He is always on horseback, visiting the fields, the stores, and the outlying kraals. He is a veritable father of his people, a curious and unaccountable outcrop of mental power and integrity among a powerful people."

The whole of Bechuanaland, an area somewhat larger than Texas, affords a lesson in conservation. Its dryness is attributed, in large part, to the continual cutting away of its trees. Most of its rivers are intermittent; many of them seep away in the desert stretches. Fish burrow into the moist rivulet beds during the time the streams go dry.

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AN OIL WELL IN FULL ACTION

Paraffine can be distilled from oil, wood or coal, or can be dug from the hills as a mineral. Ozocerite, or mineral paraffine, is found chiefly near Boryslaw, a town of some 10,000 people, in Eastern Galicia. In one year nearly 8,000,000 pounds were imported into the United States (see Bulletin No. 2).

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Hull: A City That Has Lost Its Name

THE OCEAN is drawing near Hull, built in the shelter of a river mouth. The ocean is encroaching on nearly all sides of the British Isles, but particularly is sea erosion marked near Hull. Here 16 feet of shore may be engulfed in a year and already thirteen cities have been invaded by the waves.

Officially, Hull does not exist. Hull is the name of a small river emptying into the broad estuary of the Humber and the official name of the city at its mouth is Kingston-upon-Hull.

King Edward I in the Real Estate Business

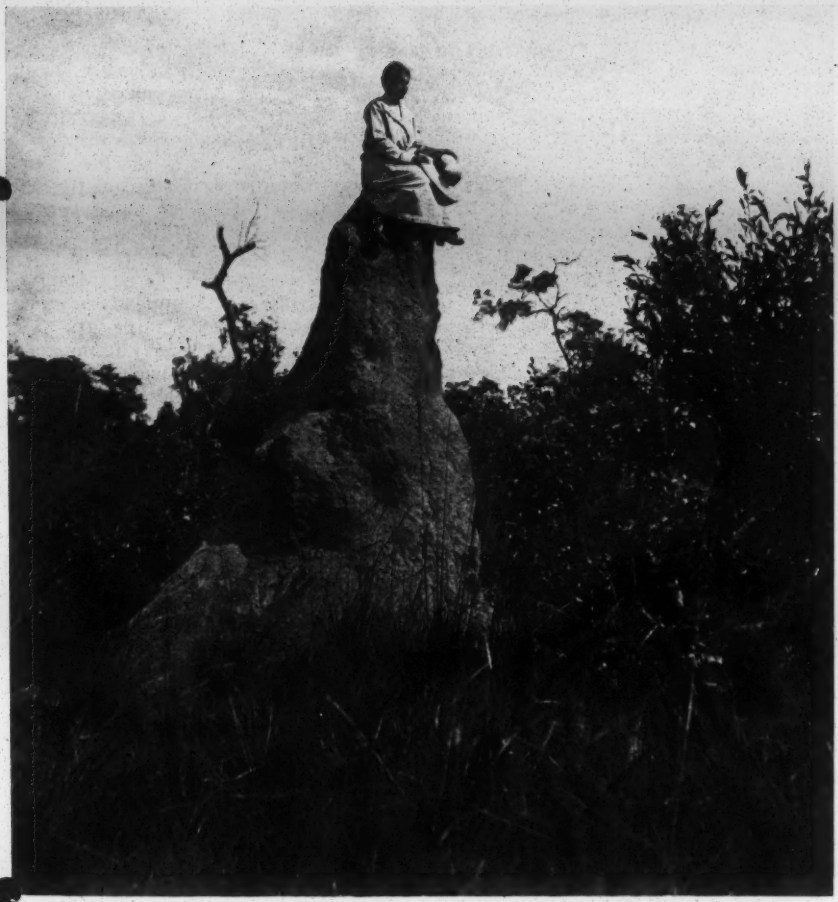
Wrapped up in the name is the history of a more or less profitable real estate deal by King Edward I of England, who, though he conquered Wales by force of arms, acquired the city on the Humber by the more peaceful process of trading some outlying acreage with the monks who owned it. He had visions, which have since been justified, of the town's becoming a leading port, and to make the place immediately more popular with settlers, changed its name from "Wyke-upon-Hull" to Kingston-upon-Hull. But a generation impatient of long names seems to have sprung up in England as well as in America, and the city is now almost universally known merely as "Hull."

Hull has nearly 280,000 inhabitants. It is about 20 miles from the open sea at a point where the estuary of the Humber is some three miles wide. There are many shallow areas in the river and the tide at times makes a marked difference in the water level. Because of this fact Hull's important harbor—it is sixth among the scores of ports of Great Britain—is almost entirely composed of artificial basins, entered by locks, in which the water is kept at high tide level. The town is situated on a flat, low plain, and a large number of these docks, aggregating hundreds of acres, have been scooped out. A ring of them practically surrounds the old part of the town, so that a forest of stacks and masts seems to spring from its highways. Beyond the chain of basins is the newer part of the city.

Loses Fisheries Leadership to Grimsby

Hull was at one time the headquarters of the North Sea fishing industry. The more important center now is Grimsby, on the other side of the Humber and about ten miles nearer the sea. But even now Hull holds second place, being the home port of the largest single fleet of steam trawlers in Great Britain. It owes its importance in this respect to its location, close at once to coal mines and to the western end of the famous Dogger Banks, which are to the fishermen of England what Newfoundland banks are to those of America.

In other industries besides fishing, Hull is tied closely to the sea. It builds ships, and manufactures sailcloth, ropes, cables, and chains. As a general freight and passenger shipping point it is one of the principal doors to and from northern Europe, especially to the Scandinavian countries. There may be a poetic justice in this, for it was up the Humber that most of the Scandinavian raids into Britain were conducted in the ninth and tenth centuries.



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AN ANT HILL IN CENTRAL AFRICA

Huge ant hills are outstanding features of the landscape in the plains district of Central Africa. A record is made of one ant-built spire that was 35 feet high and still going up. Some tribes of natives relish these ants as a delicacy (see Bulletin No. 1).

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Sumatra Linked to Holland by Air

SUMATRA was brought into communication with Holland in a new way recently by a commercial airplane flight from Amsterdam to it, and to other major possessions of Netherlands in the Far East.

An air route to the East means much to Holland, which has no Gibraltar, no Malta, and no Suez to guard the line of communication to her possessions.

The fact that the flyers spent two days winging along Sumatra on their way to Batavia, in Java, gives some conception of the size of this domain. The length of Sumatra is equal to the distance from New York to St. Louis; its area is greater than that of all the New England States, New York and Pennsylvania. It is four times the size of Java, yet has only one-sixth as many people.

Rebellions Costly To Dutch

The Dutch found the Javanese a docile and industrious people, but the mixed, warring and savage Malays of Sumatra to this day have defied the white man's rule. The Achinese natives, in the north island country, first rebelled against the newcomers in 1599, have fought steadily for the past forty years, and are reputed to have cost the Dutch 200,000 lives and $200,000,000.

The Bataks, however, are the least civilized of the island natives. The Dutch have tried to stamp out cannibalism, but there is no certainty that they have been successful in their humane endeavor. When an aged warrior felt he no longer was a first-class fighting man he would climb a tree. Beneath it his relatives would chant and dance. After a time he would fall to the ground, symbolizing the dropping of ripe fruit, whereupon the "mourners" would promptly kill him by a blow on the head and eat him.

Each Mother Her Own Baby Carriage

Even the Sumatran natives who work on the great tobacco and rubber plantations, and live along the beaten paths, cling to their native customs. Women wear wedding earrings, not wedding rings. These are large, silver, buttonlike trinkets which must be kept in evidence until the first child is born, or for five years if there is no child, and then abandoned. The sagging, buttonless ears of the older women do not commend the custom.

A Sumatran mother is her own baby carriage. She carries her baby astride her hips, held there by a scarf tied across her shoulder. Her single-piece gown, and only garment, is a sarong which hangs loosely from under the arms, or from the waist. A turbanlike headdress, of the same dark blue cloth as her sarong, completes her costume.

Sumatra is a botanical garden of amazing luxuriance. Some varieties of bamboo, which look like giant asparagus stalks, grow a foot or more a day and in three or four months their waving tops appear above the centuries-old teakwood forest monarchs. A flower which attains the prodigious size of its name is the "tjindawanmatabari." All along the east coast, which stealthily reaches out to take the fringe of islands to its bosom, is the mangrove. When the mangrove's seeds are ripe they do not fall off. They germinate on the parent tree

Goal of Zeppelin Raids

Located opposite the German coast, the mouth of the Humber, too, was the entrance point for numerous air raids by the Germans during the World War. Only one of the raids, that of March, 1918, occasioned any considerable loss of life or destruction of property in Hull itself; but the sweep of great Zeppelins across the sky and the whir of their engines became commonplace sights and sounds to the dwellers of the city.

In an age of reforms Hull is known to many as the birthplace and home of William Wilberforce, member of Parliament and philanthropist, who brought about the abolition of the British slave trade and organized one of the first societies whose aim was to compel the stricter general observance of Sunday. A column to this pioneer reformer stands in one of the public squares of Hull.

Bulletin No. 3, March 9, 1925.

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THE HERRING AUCTION IN GRIMSBY, ENGLAND

Hull is second only to Grimsby in importance as a fishing port in England. Hull is on the north shore of the Humber, 20 miles from the sea, and Grimsby is on the south shore, 10 miles nearer the ocean. The Humber estuary affords easy access to the Dogger Banks, which are to England what the Great Banks off Nova Scotia and Newfoundland are to America (see Bulletin No. 3).

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Wahabis Repeat History In Hedjaz

THE WAHABIS have captured Mecca and most of the Kingdom of Hedjaz and are hammering at the gates of Jidda, on the Red Sea, according to reports, and this is not the first time they have done it.

Practically a century and a quarter have passed since the first capture of Mecca by the Wahabis, who are strict orthodox Moslems, but time has passed over western Arabia without leaving any great physical changes. True, news dispatches to-day speak of messages by telephone from the captured city and the plight of a hospital; but save for a few such modern touches the Wahabis of to-day entered much the same Mecca as did their ancestors in 1803. And the sect is itself little different; it still insists upon simplicity and frowns on all that smacks of luxury in daily life or superstition in faith.

Will History Repeat?

That, at least, is the official platform; but because the sect has so many illiterate and fanatical followers, the practice is often somewhat different. Much the same situation, however, can be expected in Mecca if the Wahabis administer affairs there, as that which developed from 1803 to 1813.

"The Meccans still remember with gratitude," writes an English traveler who visited the country a few years later, "the excellent discipline observed by these wild Wahabis on their entering the town. Not the slightest excess was committed. On the next day all the shops were opened by order of Saoud, and every article which his troops required was purchased with ready money.

Compel Pilgrims to be Strict in Faith

"The people of Mecca now became Wahabis; that is, they were obliged to pray more punctually than usual, to lay aside and conceal their fine silk dresses, and to desist from smoking in public. Heaps of Persian pipes, collected from all the houses, were burnt before Saoud's headquarters, and the sale of tobacco was forbidden. So upright was the Bedouin judge appointed by Saoud that his sentences have become almost proverbial. At this time the prayers for the Sultan, usually recited in the grand mosque, were abolished."

The Wahabi leader did not probibit pilgrimages to Mecca, but the huge yearly caravans from Egypt and Damascus no longer made the trip because they were not permitted to go armed. Thousands of pilgrims in small groups and by shipload continued, however, to journey to Mecca. All were compelled to observe Wahabi strictness in faith and in daily life. It was particularly against the excesses that accompanied the pilgrimages that the Wahabis had leveled their reform measures.

In Medina, burial place of Mohammed, where Turkish sympathy and the Turkish mode of life were marked, the Wahabis were even more strict than in Mecca. A list was prepared of all the adult males, and a regular roll was called in the mosque after morning, midday and evening prayers. Those absent were punished. Mohammed's tomb was stripped of offerings that had been made

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and grow downward in long shoots. These drop of their own weight, take root in shoal water, and help catch the silt worked down to Sumatra's swampy coast by rainfalls almost as heavy as those of the Congo.

Has a Petroleum Future

Waterspouts, simoons and almost daily thunderstorms add to the weather variety of the east coast. The spinelike mountain range extends nearly the length of this island along the west coast, on which side are few rivers and more temperate weather than one would expect in a land mass practically bisected by the Equator.

Reports that the Jambi petroleum fields are to be developed give promise that the world's fifth largest island may soon experience a boom like that which has made its little sister, Java, a garden spot of the world. The Jambi fields take their name from a principal river along which oil derricks now break the skyline of forest jungle.

Bulletin No. 4, March 9, 1925.

there. The Wahabis regarded as idol worship any visits, prayers or exclamations addressed to it, and prohibited them.

The Turks made several attempts to oust the Wahabis from the Moslem Holy Land but failed, chiefly because of the protection afforded by the deserts. An expedition by sea from Egypt finally drove the Wahabis back into the desert in 1813 and their power was broken in 1818. Since about 1824, however, they have been steadily regaining power in the interior of Arabia.

Bulletin No. 5, March 9, 1925.

Form for Renewal of Bulletin Requests

Many requests for the GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETIN were made for the year ending with this issue. If you desire the Bulletins continued kindly notify The Society promptly. The attached form may be used:

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